

Silver Cluster-Leaf (Muhonono)



Guidelines for Sustainable Harvesting and Storage

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References:

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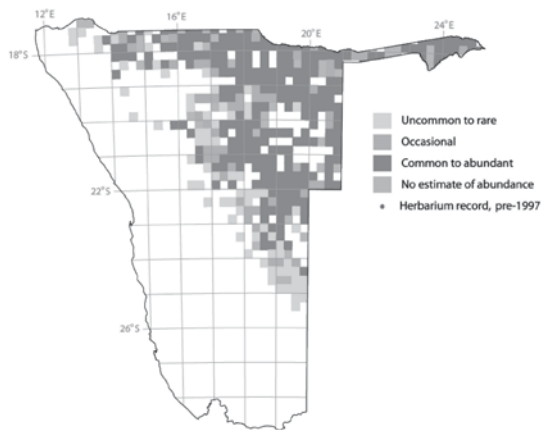
What is the Silver Cluster-Leaf?



The silver cluster-leaf (*Terminalia sericea*) is an indigenous tree that grows in Namibia and several other countries in Africa. Common names include Muhonono (Lozi), Muanja (Sifwe), Mushosho (Mbukushu), Mugoro (Rukwangali), Omuseasetu (Herero) and Omugolo (Oshiwambo).

Distribution

The silver cluster-leaf is widespread and common in the sandy areas of Namibia where rainfall exceeds 150 mm/year. It is locally dominant in many areas where it is found.



Description

The silver cluster-leaf is a small to medium-sized tree. Its bluish-green silvery leaves are clustered at the end of the branches. The bark is a grey to red brown in colour and peels away in strips. The fruit are winged containing a single seed and are pinkish brown in colour.

Annual Cycle

Leaves are mainly present from October to July but can be present on some trees all year round. Young leaves flush from September to December. Silver cluster leaf flowers mostly occur October to July and fruits present from December to June.

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Flowers												
Fruit												
Leaves												

What is the **Silver Cluster-Leaf** used for?

There are many traditional medicinal uses of the silver cluster-leaf. It is used as a treatment for wounds, stomach disorders, coughs, skin diseases and pneumonia. The modern use of both the leaves and root bark is as an ingredient in anti-ageing skincare products.

Sustainable Harvesting

The silver cluster-leaf is a national resource that belongs to the people of Namibia. The harvesting of leaves needs to be sustainable to ensure the tree is there for future generations.

Sustainable harvesting means that the tree is not destroyed in the harvesting process, and the same tree will be able provide the same parts for harvesting in the future.

Sustainable harvesting is affected by:

- Timing of harvest
- Parts of plant harvested
- Harvesting techniques
- Harvesting equipment used



Harvesting Silver Cluster-Leaf



Do not collect leaves from trees in areas that have been treated with chemicals or sprays. Only harvest from areas with **high numbers** of the trees.

When to harvest

- Silver cluster-leaf trees lose their leaves in winter.
- The best time for harvesting leaves is immediately following the flush of new leaves in the spring (September to December).
- Harvesting must be done in dry conditions to prevent leaf spoilage.

Remember to:

- **Wash** your **hands** before harvesting
- Ensure the **correct** identification of the **tree**
- **Use** your **hands** for harvesting leaves
- **Select** fresh **new leaves** for picking

What to harvest

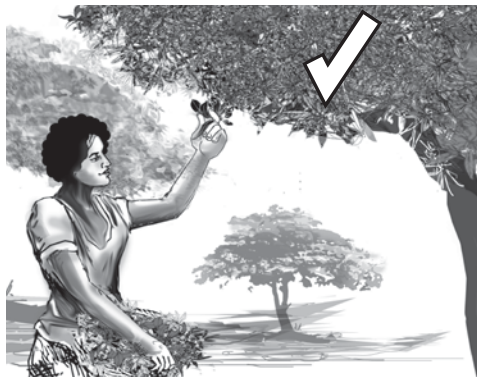
- Be sure you are harvesting from the **right tree species**
- **Only pick** a few leaves from each tree (**30%** of the tree)
- **Choose healthy** trees with young leaves
- **Harvest** only the fresh **young leaves**
- **Do not** harvest leaves that are infested with fungal growth or insect damage

Steps of harvesting Silver Cluster-Leaf



Step 1: Harvesting leaves

- Pick leaves by using your hands, do not use secateurs
- Pick individual leaves evenly from the tree
- Pick only fresh leaves with no insect damage
- **Do not** strip the leaves off the branch
- **Do not** pick more than a 30% of the leaves on a single tree
- Removing all the leaves from a tree will prevent the tree from growing
- Immediately after picking, place the picked leaves into a **new bag or new clean bag**
- **Do not** use old bags which may contain chemical and other residues that could contaminate the leaves



On arrival back at your home, leaves should be unpacked as soon as possible and placed directly on to the drying net in a single layer, to prevent mould from forming on the leaves.

Do not:

- Pick or harvest leaves without washing your hands
- Climb trees to harvest leaves
- Cut tree branches to harvest leaves
- Pick leaves which have already dried or are deformed, rotten or discoloured
- Pick leaves that have already fallen on the ground
- Cause any unnecessary damage to the tree during the harvesting process

Step 2: Sorting the leaves

- Spread the leaves in one layer on a clean drying net
- Inspect the leaves and remove any foreign objects or damaged and discoloured leaves
- The drying net should be raised from the ground



Step 3: Drying the harvested leaves

- Drying should be done in a chemical-free area
- Your hands should be clean
- Leaves should be placed in a single layer on the drying net for even drying

Step 4: Packing

- When the leaves are dry, pack into clean bags
- Clearly label each bag

REMEMBER!

Each bag label should indicate the following:

- Name of harvester
- Area from which harvested
- Date of collection
- Weight of bag



Step 5: Storage

- Once bags are full, they can be stored
- Storage should be off the ground in an enclosed but well-ventilated area
- Storage should be protected from the sun and the rain
- Storage should **not** be inside your house, where the bags might be contaminated with insect spray or other contaminants.
- Storage should be in a separate, dedicated storage structure





Guidelines for Sustainable Harvesting and Storage of Silver-Cluster Leaf